

Appl. No. 10/727,400
Amdt. dated September 3, 2004
Reply to Office Action dated August 26, 2004

PATENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed on August 26, 2004. Prior to this Amendment, claims 4-30 were pending. In this Amendment, claim 23 is canceled and the limitation therein is incorporated into independent claim 19. Dependent claims 16 and 30 are also amended.

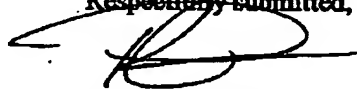
In the Office Action, claims 19-22, 25-27, and 30 are rejected as anticipated by Neumann et al. Claims 24 and 29 are rejected as obvious in view of Neumann et al. On page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that claims 4-18 are allowable and that claim 23 would be allowable if re-written into independent form.

Applicants traverse the rejections based on Neumann et al. However, to expedite the prosecution, claim 23 is canceled and the limitation therein is incorporated into independent claim 19. Since independent claim 19 is the same as previously submitted dependent claim 23, claim 19 should be allowable. Claims 20-22, and 24-30 depend from independent claim 19 so they should also be allowable. The Examiner is sincerely and earnestly thanked for the indication of allowable subject matter.

CONCLUSION

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,



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